

REMARKS

Claims 1-62 were pending in this application, claims 1-15 and 26-53 were withdrawn, and claims 16-25 and 54-62 were under consideration.

Claims 1-15, 26-35, 37-40, 43 and 49-54 have now been cancelled as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claim 20 has been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error. Claims 36, 41-42 and 44-48 have been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of independent claim 16. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, upon entry of the present amendment claims 16-25, 36, 41, 42, 44-48 and 55-62 will be pending. The claim amendments requested herein should in no way be construed as acquiescence to any of the rejections and have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed and/or prior to amendments made herein in this or a separate application(s).

Withdrawal of Objections and Rejections

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the withdrawal of the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and § 102(b).

Double Patenting

Claims 16-25 and 55-62 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 16-25 of co-pending Application No. 10/441,952.

According to U.S. patent practice, if a provisional double patenting rejection in an application is the only rejection remaining in the application, the examiner should withdraw the rejection and permit the application to issue as a patent. See MPEP § 804 and § 822.01. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejoinder of Process Claims

Upon withdrawal of the double patenting rejection, the pending product claims 16-25 should be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of process claims 36, 41-42 and 44-48 in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.94. These

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claims have been amended to depend from or otherwise include all of the limitations of independent claim 16 and are therefore commensurate in scope with the product claims.

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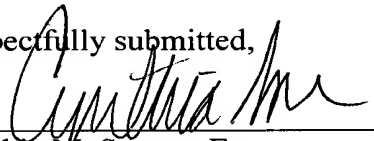
SUMMARY

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. CCI-014 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 21, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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